GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1787
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2003
HARASSMENT BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the importers, ships and other vessels face serious harassment at the hands of customs officials in various ports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to launch a drive to ensure the people are not subjected to harassment by customs at sea ports?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a), (b), and (c) : Occasional complaints of harassments do come in which relate mainly to delay in clearance of import consignments. In all cases, enquiries are conducted and appropriate action taken.

Measures are constantly being undertaken to facilitate trade and also reduce the interface between customs officers and the trade so as to significantly reduce the scope of such complaints. The Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) systemis one such measure, which is already operational at 23 major customs stations across the country.